

9 FACTORY STREET (HOUSE)
Danville
Montour County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6337

HABS
PA
47-DANVI,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania

USGS Danville, Pennsylvania Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.363720.4535590

Significance: 9 Factory Street is representative of late nineteenth/early twentieth century, single family, vernacular housing in Danville Historic District which is significant for its architecture, commerce, industry, and government/politics for the period 1792 to 1943. 9 Factory Street is a contributing element of that district.

Description: 9 Factory Street faces west onto Factory Street and is bounded on the north by an alley. The sidewalk in front of the house is partially flagstone and partially brick, laid in herringbone style. It is a three bay, two-and-a-half story, frame house built in the late nineteenth century with early twentieth century and later additions. The main block measures 22 x 16 feet, and the two-story kitchen ell behind the main block measures 14 x 18 feet. Both the main block and kitchen ell rest on a random-laid stone foundation which has been stuccoed and painted. There is a one-story shed roof addition to the rear of the kitchen. The kitchen addition was enlarged with a one-story structure which appears to have been originally a porch but was later enclosed. The house is currently sheathed in vinyl siding, and the original windows have been replaced with modern two-over-two sash. The roof of the house and front porch is covered with standing seam metal.

The one-story, shed roof porch on the front of the house retains its original turned posts and jig sawn brackets, indicative of the house's construction in the late Victorian period. The porch has a molded cornice, beaded board ceiling, and narrow tongue and groove wooden flooring.

The first floor of the main block is now a single room. A chimney breast, entirely sheathed in plasterboard, is located in the center of the south wall. The Victorian era open staircase extends up along the north wall. It features a walnut balustrade with a turned newel post, turned spindles, and a carved handrail. The walls and ceiling in this room and throughout the house have been covered in plasterboard and finished with a white coat. The five-inch, pine floor boards in this room as throughout the house have been refinished and varnished.

History: Danville is historically significant as an industrial and commercial center in the central Susquehanna Valley. It is also the seat of government for Montour County. 9 Factory Street, as a small vernacular house, is diminutive in size, materials, and architectural detailing compared to most other homes in the Danville

Historic District. It's period of construction is the same as the majority of buildings within the district. The 1857 Map of Danville shows a square house drawn in the location of the present 9 Factory Street house. At that time it was situated on a large lot extending from the alley on the north to Water or Front Street on the south. Two other houses on the lot faced south onto Water Street. The house in 9 Factory Street's location was on the back of the lot, and possibly the main house/houses faced onto Water or Front Street. The three houses and lot were owned by George Frick, noted as a banker in the 1860 United States population census. It would appear 9 Factory Street was a rental property.

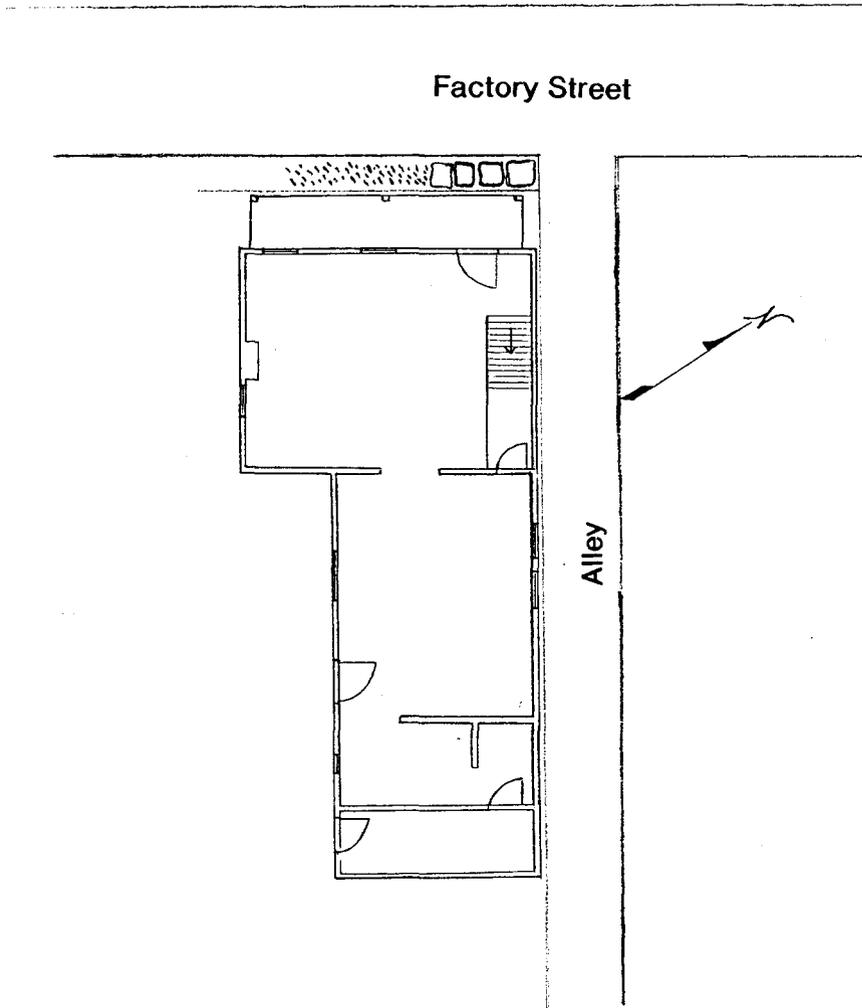
The 1876 Atlas of Columbia and Montour counties shows a C shaped house on the location with a small attachment to the rear. The entire lot with three buildings continued in one ownership, with J. Heldt noted as the owner then. Joseph Held was described as a teamster born in Baden, Germany, according to the 1870 United States population census. Apparently there were no deeds recorded documenting the sale of the lot from Frick to Heldt.

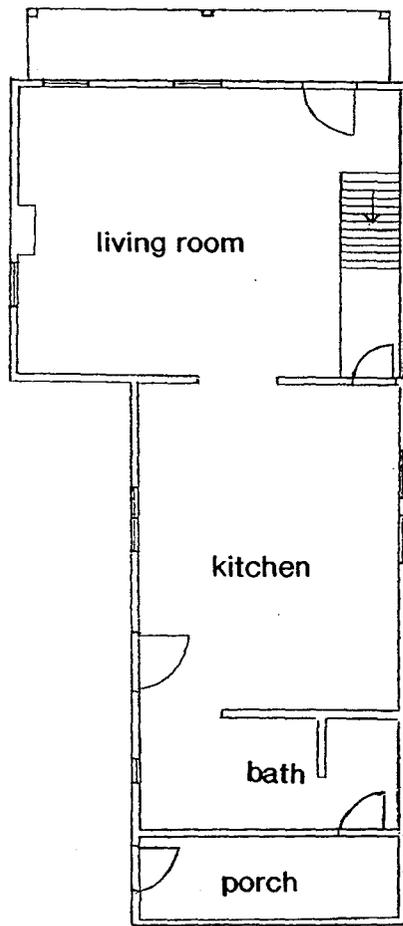
Likewise, there was no legal instrument documenting the sale of the lot to Edward Hofer, who owned the property by the 1890s. Hofer died in 1896, and a local newspaper noted his death after a lengthy illness and burial in the German Catholic Cemetery at Danville. The administratrix of his estate, Mary A. Hofer, sold his property in 1905. At that time the three houses on the lot were sold to separate owners. The parcel with 9 Factory Street was described in the sale advertisement as a two-story frame dwelling house with other outbuildings. Sarah A. McCormick bought 9 Factory Street at the 1905 sale, and her heirs in 1921 sold the same to Austin Grubb. It continued as a single family home until January 1998 when the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) purchased the property from Richard and Shirley Jordan. Since that time it has remained vacant. PennDOT is currently seeking to have the house relocated.

Sources: Map of Danville (Perth Amboy, N.J.: Thomas A. Hurley, 1857)
Atlas of Columbia and Montour Counties, PA (New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1876)
1860 United States Population Census for Pennsylvania, Danville, South Ward
1870 United States Population Census for Pennsylvania, Danville, First Ward
Danville Intelligencer, September 11, 1896
Montour American, June 22, 1905
Montour County Deed Book 23, p. 686, and Deed Book 40, p. 252.
James R. Zubler, Danville Historic District National Register nomination

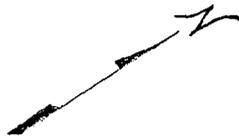
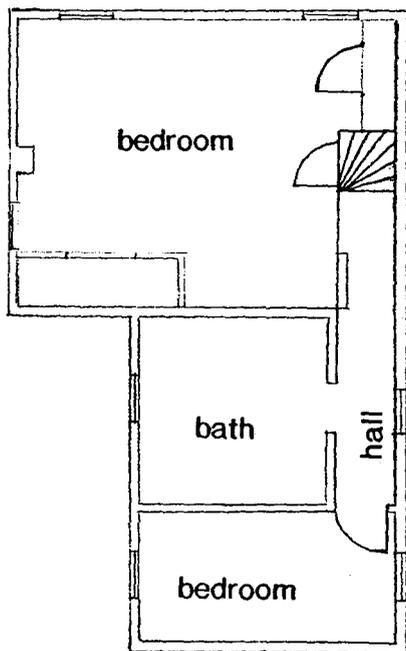
Historian: Jerry A. Clouse, McCormick, Taylor & Associates, October, 1998

SKETCH SITE PLAN





FIRST FLOOR SKETCH PLAN



SECOND FLOOR SKETCH PLAN